S.No.	States	Districts	Members enrolled
9.	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry	Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Coimbatore, Theni, Pondicherry	50
10.	Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal	Lucknow, Allahabad, Varanasi, Dehradun	857
11.	West Bengal, North East Region	Itanagar, Guwahati, Imphal, Shillong, Aizwal, Kohima, Gangtok, Agartala, Kolkata, Durgapur	19
		TOTAL	3451

Mining operations in Tamil Nadu

773. SHRI T. T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow private players including foreign companies in the field of mining in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed mining operations in some States as well;

(c) if so, the names of the States in which these mining operations are likely to be on a major level;

(d) whether mining operations are likely to be allowed in Tamil Nadu also; and

(e) if so, whether the State has been consulted on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) As per the National Mineral Policy (NMP), 1993, the non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector has been thrown open for private investment including Foreign Direct Investment

(b) to (e) For non-fuel and non-atomic minerals, the above mentioned National Mineral Policy is equally applicable to ail States including Tamil Nadu in the country. All mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments including Tamil Nadu under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Only

in respect of coal and lignite, atomic minerals and 10 other minerals, the State Governments are required to obtain prior approval of the Central Government before grant of mineral concession under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Mining operations in a State whether Tamil Nadu or any other State depend on the availability of the mineral and economic viability of their exploration and exploitation, whenever any major changes are made in the said Act or Rules, generally all stakeholders including State Governments are consulted in the matter.

Appointment of Welfare Officer for NRIs

774. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:

SHRI MAM. RAMASWAMY:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to appoint Welfare Officers in countries with high density of NRIs and people of Indian Origin to help Indian families to find antecedents of prospective grooms;

(b) whether it is a fact that thousands of girls have been lured into marriage by boys claiming to be well-settled abroad and after marriage disappeared or abandoned their wives;

(c) if so, the details of such cases available with Government, State-wise;

(d) whether Government have any plan to provide help to such Indian girls who have no where to go in a foreign land; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Though it is generally believed that there are large number of such cases, only a few case have been brought to the specific notice of the Government.

(d) and (e) There already exists a system of redressal for such problems in Indian Mission abroad. Whenever they receive a complaint of torture and desertion of Indian wives by the NRI husbands, they render assistance